

CD 2000--92/93

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF MUSIC
2000-2001 Season

Faculty Artist Series
**ST. LAWRENCE
STRING QUARTET**



Where Great Music Meets Great Minds

Friday, October 6, 2000, 8 p.m.
Walter Hall

Faculty Artist Series

Presents

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

Geoff Nuttall & Barry Shiffman, violins
Lesley Robertson, viola; Marina Hoover, cello

featuring special guests

William Aide, piano; Steven Dann, viola; Simon Fryer, cello*; Edward Tait, bass;
Nadia Klein, cello; Tori Lindsay, violin; Akemi Mercer, violin

**Simon Fryer is a guest cellist with the Quartet replacing Marina Hoover, who is on maternity leave*

Wolfgang A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

String Quartet in C major K.157
Allegro
Andante
Presto

*Geoff Nuttall & Barry Shiffman, violins
Lesley Robertson, viola; Simon Fryer, cello*

Wolfgang A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Piano Concerto in C major K.415
(Original arrangement for piano and string quintet)
Allegro
Andante
Allegro

*William Aide, piano; Geoff Nuttall & Barry Shiffman, violins
Lesley Robertson, viola; Simon Fryer, cello; Edward Tait, bass*

INTERMISSION

Felix B. Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Octet in E-flat major, Op. 20
Allegro moderato ma con fuoco
Andante
Scherzo
Presto

*Geoff Nuttall, Barry Shiffman, Tori Lindsay &
Akemi Mercer, violins; Lesley Robertson, Steven Dann, violas;
Simon Fryer, Nadia Klein, cellos*

A portion of the ticket revenues from the Faculty Artist Series support the Faculty Artists' Scholarship awarded annually on the basis of financial need to the most outstanding student continuing full-time studies in an undergraduate programme.

Meet the Artists

Twelve years ago, four vibrant musicians joined forces to create the **ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET**. Since that time, rave reviews have followed them through tours around the world. *Le Monde* of Paris called them "a quartet of stars." In a recent review in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, one critic hailed, "here is an ensemble that plays with energy and fearless adventurousness." Since its founding in 1989, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has proven it possible to entertain a wide range of audiences while maintaining the highest level of musical interpretation and technique.

As part of its exclusive multi-record contract with EMI Classics, the St. Lawrence String Quartet released in May 1999 a thrilling rendition of Schumann's Quartets Nos. 1 & 3, which won a Juno Award for Best Classical Album: Solo or Chamber Music. They have been appointed to the faculty at Stanford University, where they directs the chamber music and string music programmes at the department of music. They continue to have strong ties to the University of Toronto where they act as Visiting Artists working with students, chamber ensembles and young composers. Support from The Canada Council Touring Office, the Ontario Arts Council and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts allow the St. Lawrence to continue performing across the globe. This fall the quartet will tour Europe including performances at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and their recital debut in Berlin.

The quartet derives its name from the great St. Lawrence River, which provides a 2,342-mile link between Canada and the United States. But this quartet is unquestionably Canadian at heart. Second

violinist Barry Shiffman was born and bred in Canada, having attended the Royal Conservatory of Music and the University of Toronto. Born in Texas but drawn to Ontario, first violinist Geoff Nuttall studied at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto. Crossing the other way, after graduating from Canada's University of British Columbia, violist Lesley Robertson received her advanced degrees from the Curtis Institute and The Juilliard School. Cellist Marina Hoover earned degrees from both the Curtis Institute and Yale University. Both Lesley and Marina are natives of Edmonton.

The St. Lawrence String Quartet has strong ties to both its countries of heritage. Since its inception in Canada, the quartet studied in a program jointly sponsored by the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music. As the quartet matured, the musicians crossed the border to the United States as the first quartet to participate in a two-year residency program at the Hartt School of Music at Hartford University. There they received intensive coaching with the renowned Emerson String Quartet. They went on to The Juilliard School, where they served as "Graduate String-Quartet-in-Residence" from 1992-94. At Yale University, from 1994-96, they were teaching assistants to the eminent Tokyo String Quartet.

The members of the St. Lawrence String Quartet have helped to create innovative programs introducing music to people throughout North America. In Kansas, they joined with Robert Kapilow and the Ying String Quartet to create an original and extremely successful yearlong program, Music-Connection, for the Kansas City Friends of Chamber Music. With a similar

educational goal in mind, other residency programs were developed for the Sidney Institute in Orlando and the Carnegie Hall Foundation in New York City.

Success in North America has not prevented the St. Lawrence String Quartet from receiving international recognition. In 1992, the ensemble won the Fourth Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. Critically acclaimed debuts include not only those in New York City at the 92nd Street Y and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., but also at the Paris Opera. In October 1993, news of the quartet reached the White House, when at the invitation of Isaac Stern and Young Concert Artists, the quartet performed for the President and Mrs. Clinton during an evening honoring the recipients of the National Medal of the Arts. The quartet's international successes include a past tour in Japan and debuts in some of the most renowned musical sites in Europe, such as Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, and London's Wigmore Hall. Return engagements are not new to the Quartet members, as they have returned to Paris and Amsterdam, including to the Concertgebouw, Radio France, and Théâtre de la Ville. Their broad appeal has taken them to festivals across Europe, such as the Turku Festival in Finland and the Festival Consonances in St. Nazaire, France.

On the North America circuit, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has performed not only in Lincoln Center's Great Performances series and the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York City, but also in Washington, D.C., Boston, Chicago, Houston, Kansas City, La Jolla, Montréal, Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, Banff, Edmonton and Vancouver. The Quartet has enjoyed playing in celebrated American music festivals, including the Spoleto USA Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, SummerFest La Jolla in southern California, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival in New Mexico, Newport Festival in Rhode Island, and the Rockport Festival in Massachusetts.

In addition to performing works from the great classical repertoire, the St. Lawrence String Quartet is actively involved in commissioning and performing new works. Composers such as Patrick Cardy, Christos Hatzis, Osvaldo Golijov, Jonathan Berger, John Hale and R. Murray Schafer work with the quartet, writing new works, some incorporating multi-media collaborations, especially for them.

Through generous local sponsorship, enthusiastic audiences, and musical excellence, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has earned a place at the top of its field. The natural talent, youthful exuberance and unique musical understanding of each member contributes to the artistic unity that continues to captivate audiences along the St. Lawrence River, across the oceans, and around the world.

Visit the St. Lawrence String Quartet on the Internet at www.slsq.com

The St. Lawrence String Quartet is represented by Columbia Artists Management, Inc.

165 West 57th Street, New York NY 10019

Personal representative: Douglas Sheldon
EMI/Angel Recordings

Hailed by Glenn Gould as "one of the most inventive and imaginative pianistic talents of our time," pianist **WILLIAM AIDE** studied at the University of Toronto and the Juilliard School. In 1962 he won first prize in the CBC Talent Festival and the Canada Council Award for Young Performing Artists. Mr. Aide is a distinguished solo recitalist, chamber musician and accompanist and has collaborated with such conductors as Walter Susskind, Charles Dutoit, Mario Bernardi, Raffi Armenian, Arthur Fiedler and Andrew Davis.

He has recorded the Chopin Twenty-Four Etudes, the Brahms Cello Sonatas with Ofra Harnoy, and the complete Suzuki method repertoire on a five compact disc set. The BBC and CBC have recorded his performances and he has given concerts in New York City, the former Soviet Union,

Chicago, San Francisco and throughout Canada. In February 1993, and November 1995, Professor Aide served as Artist-in-Residence at the Aix-en-Provence Conservatory. A glowing review stated that "one could detect two major strengths from playing: the extreme quality of his sonority and the sovereign mastery of musical time."

Recent engagements include acclaimed performances at the American Liszt Society conferences in Hamilton, and a song recital with mezzo soprano Catherine Robbin. His most recent recording of Canadian chamber music features works by Talivaldis Kenins (Centrediscs).

His book, *Starting from Porcupine* (Oberon Press), was shortlisted for the Edna Stabler Award for creative non-fiction. In June of 2000 he participates in the first jury of the Esther Honens Competition. Mr. Aide currently serves as the Head of the Keyboard Division at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music where he has been teaching since 1978.

STEVEN DANN was born in Burnaby, B.C. in 1953. A graduate of the University of Toronto, his teachers have included Lorand Fenyves, Robert Pikler and Bruno Giuranna. He has been principal viola of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, the Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, the Vancouver Symphony and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, where he has been since 1988.

As a soloist, Steven Dann has performed with the orchestras of Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, the National Arts Centre and Symphony Nova Scotia, as well as with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the National Orchestra of Spain. He has recorded with the CBC Vancouver Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and is responsible for commissioning viola concerti from Alexina Louie, Walter

Buczynski and Peter Lieberman. A recording of the Viola Concerto by Alexina Louie with the Vancouver New Music Society was nominated for a Juno award.

Mr. Dann devotes much of his time to chamber music, having performed with many ensembles including the Allegri, Bartok and Orford String Quartets. He regularly participates in chamber music festivals and summer music schools including the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival, Festival of the Sound, Scotia Festival of Music and Domaine Forget.

As Associate Professor, he teaches viola and chamber music at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music.

SIMON FRYER is an artist of the utmost versatility, at home with the excitement of music of our time and the demands of historical performance, with the cooperative imperatives of ensemble and in the spotlight of the solo recital. His 2000/2001 season includes performances as soloist with Orchestras of the Okanagan Valley and Mississauga; as a guest member of the St. Lawrence String Quartet; and in recital and chamber music in Toronto. This diverse musical life is often featured by the CBC and is complemented by positions with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and on the Faculties of the University of Toronto and the Glenn Gould Professional School of the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Simon's first solo CD: *Music of a life so far...*, released on Phoenix Records and acclaimed as 'a fascinating collection' by the Toronto Star and 'ideally brewed and technically complete' by the Winnipeg Free Press, presents a personal selection of repertoire created during the performer's lifetime. Also recorded by CBC, Centrediscs and Marquis Classics Simon has appeared as soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player in more than twenty countries on six continents.

Simon performs on an instrument completed in 1998 by Masa Inokuchi.

Born in Hertfordshire, England in 1943, **EDWARD TAIT's** earliest musical involvement was as a boy chorister. In his teens he studied percussion. When he entered the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music he was singing in the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and playing dance and jazz gigs around Toronto.

He began studying the double bass and became a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada in 1964 where he met Frederick Zimmerman. On graduation he spent the 1966/67 season with the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony and studied with Principal Bassist Robert Rohe.

Awarded a Canada Council grant to study with Fred Zimmerman in 1967, Mr. Tait instead returned to Toronto and studies with Thomas Monohan after Mr. Zimmerman's untimely death. After two years of freelancing in Toronto with the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet of Canada, the Festival Singers, the New Hampshire Summer Music Festival, Theatre, Dance and Jazz gigs, he joined the National Arts Centre Orchestra as Assistant Principal Bass in 1969. A member of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra since 1971, he has been the Assistant Principal Bass for 25 years. He plays chamber music, studio recording sessions and teaches at York University and the University of Toronto. Mr. Tait also plays in Canada's oldest double bass quartet, "Basstially", and the Symphony Winds. His hobbies include sailing, canoeing, golfing and skiing.

NADIA KLEIN is currently in her second year in music performance at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music where she studies with Simon Fryer. An avid chamber musician, Ms. Klein has worked with the St. Lawrence String Quartet, the Penderecki String Quartet, and members of the Orford Quartet and Gryphon Trio. In 1997 as a member of the Gemini String

Quartet, she won first prize in the chamber music category at the National Music Festival in Saskatoon. Upon completion of her degree Ms. Klein wishes to pursue a career as a chamber musician.

TORI LINDSAY is a second year student at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music where she is currently studying with Professor David Zafer. Since she began playing the violin at the age of nine, Ms. Lindsay has enjoyed many solo opportunities, including performances of Vivaldi's Four Seasons with the Hamilton East Chamber Ensemble. She is an enthusiastic chamber musician, and has been a member of the Gemini String Quartet for a number of years. After completing her Bachelor of Music in violin performance, Ms. Lindsay hopes to pursue a career in chamber music.

AKEMI MERCER is in her second year in music performance at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, studying with Professor David Zafer. She has played in master classes by José Luis García, Maricio Fuks, Martin Beaver and Christian Tetzlaff. This past year Ms. Mercer won the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra concerto competition and will be playing a solo with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra this fall. She has been a member of the Gemini String Quartet since its foundation in 1993.

This past summer, the Gemini String Quartet, made up of Akemi Mercer, Tori Lindsay, Caitlen Boyle and Nadia Klein, was awarded a scholarship to attend the Stanford University Chamber Music Seminar in California, directed by the St. Lawrence String Quartet

Upcoming Faculty Artist Concert

SHAUNA ROLSTON & SCOTT ST. JOHN

Friday, Oct 20, 8 p.m. Walter Hall



Shauna Rolston, Cello

"Her aristocratic phrasing combined with superb bow and finger-board control and a daredevil expressivity made her British debut at Wigmore Hall a memorable occasion."

—*The Strad*



Scott St. John, Violin

"Mr. St. John claims an instrumental prowess many performers dream of achieving. A musician of impeccable taste and natural instincts, he produced a tone of uncommon warmth and focus."

—*The Pittsburgh Press*

Featuring works by Schnittke & Dvorak, with Lydia Wong, piano

Imagine perfect resonance.

A chord is struck, but never fades, sustained forever.



Dr. Arthur Plettner
1904-1999

Arthur Plettner graduated from the Faculty of Music many years ago and now, because of his generosity, is helping students that have come after him. When Dr. Plettner made a note of remembering the Faculty of Music in his Will, he created an endowment fund that will provide enduring financial support to gifted graduate and undergraduate students in financial need wishing to study at the Faculty of Music. Thank you Dr. Plettner.

For more information on Planned Giving please contact the Development Office of the Faculty of Music by calling 416-946-3145.

